

and in accordance with a NCCP plan for the protection of coastal sage scrub habitat, prepared consistent with the State's NCCP Conservation and Process Guidelines, *provided that*:

(i) The NCCP plan has been prepared, approved, and implemented pursuant to California Fish and Game Code sections 2800-2840; and

(ii) The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has issued written concurrence that the NCCP plan meets the standards set forth in 50 CFR 17.32(b)(2). The Service shall issue its concurrence pursuant to the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated December 4, 1991, between the California Department of Fish and Game and the Service regarding coastal sage scrub natural community conservation planning in southern California. (Copies of the State's NCCP Conservation and Process Guidelines and the MOU are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, CA 92008.) The Service shall monitor the implementation of the NCCP plan and may revoke its concurrence under this paragraph (b)(2)(ii) if the NCCP plan, as implemented, fails to adhere to the standards set forth in 50 CFR 17.32(b)(2).

(3) During the period that a NCCP plan referred to in paragraph (b)(2) of this section is being prepared, incidental take of the coastal California gnatcatcher will not be a violation of section 9 of the Act if such take occurs within an area under the jurisdiction of a local government agency that is enrolled and actively engaged in the preparation of such a plan and such take results from activities conducted in accordance with the NCCP Conservation Guidelines and Process Guidelines.

(4) The Service will monitor the implementation of the NCCP Conservation and Process Guidelines as a whole, and will conduct a review every 6 months to determine whether the guidelines, as implemented, are effective in progressing toward or meeting regional and subregional conservation objectives during the interim planning period. If the Service determines that the guidelines are not effecting adequate progress toward or meeting regional and subregional conservation

objectives, the Service will consult with the California Department of Fish and Game pursuant to the MOU to seek appropriate modification of the guidelines or their application as defined therein. If appropriate modification of the guidelines or their application as defined therein does not occur, the Service may revoke the interim take provisions of this special rule on a subregional or subarea basis. The Service will publish the findings for revocation in the FEDERAL REGISTER and provide for a 30-day public comment period prior to the effective date for revoking the provisions of the special rule in a particular area. Revocation would result in the reinstatement of the take prohibitions set forth under 50 CFR 17.31(a) and (b) in the affected NCCP area.

[43 FR 6233, Feb. 14, 1978, as amended at 58 FR 65095, Dec. 10, 1993; 60 FR 36010, July 12, 1995]

#### § 17.42 Special rules—reptiles.

(a) American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)—(1) *Definitions*. For purpose of this paragraph (a): "American alligator" shall mean any member of the species *Alligator mississippiensis*, whether alive or dead, and any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof found in captivity or the wild.

(2) *Taking*. No person may take any American alligator, except:

(i) Any employee or agent of the Service, any other Federal land management agency, or a State conservation agency, who is designated by the agency for such purposes, may, when acting in the course of official duties, take an American alligator.

(ii) Any person may take an American alligator in the wild, or one which was born in captivity or lawfully placed in captivity, and may deliver, receive, carry, transport, ship, sell, offer to sell, purchase, or offer to purchase such alligator in interstate or foreign commerce, by any means whatsoever and in the course of a commercial activity in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of taking subject to the following conditions:

(A) Any hide of such alligator may be sold or otherwise transferred only in

compliance with paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(C) of this section;

(B) Any hide, meat or other part may be sold or otherwise transferred only in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State in which the taking occurs and the State in which the sale or transfer occurs;

(C) The State of taking requires hides to be tagged by State officials, or under State supervision, with a Service approved tag, a sample of which must be on file in the Federal Wildlife Permit Office (FWPO), that:

(1) Is made of permanent material,

(2) Shows State of origin, year of take, species, and is serially unique, and

(3) Cannot be opened and reused once attached to the hide.

(iii) Import/Export. Any person may import or export hides, manufactured products, meat or other parts in accordance with part 23 of this chapter.

(iv) Recordkeeping

(A) Any person not holding an import/export license issued by the Service under §14.91 and who imports, exports, or obtains permits under part 23 for the import or export of American alligator shall keep such records as are otherwise required to be maintained by all import/export licensees under §14.93(d). Such records shall be maintained as in the normal course of business, reproducible in the English language, and retained available for Service inspection for 5 years from the date of each transaction.

(B) Subject to applicable limitations of law, duly authorized Service officers at all reasonable time shall, upon notice, be afforded access to examine such records required to be kept under paragraph (a)(2)(iv)(A)(1) of this section, and an opportunity to copy such records.

(b) Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) (these do not include the populations listed as endangered in §17.11).

(1) *Prohibitions.* Subject to the permits allowable under the following paragraph (b)(2) of this section, all of the provisions set forth in §17.31 (which incorporate portions of §17.21) shall apply to this wildlife with the following exceptions:

(i) Section 17.21(c)(2) (self-defense) is not applicable.

(ii) In §17.21(c)(3)(i), the word “orphaned” is replaced by the word “stranded.”

(iii) Delete §17.21(c)(3)(iv) (Wildlife threatening human safety).

(iv) [Reserved]

(v) The prohibition against taking shall not apply to incidental catches, as specified in 50 CFR 227.72(e).

(vi) The prohibition against taking within the United States or the territorial sea of the United States shall not apply to subsistence taking, as specified in 50 CFR 227.72(f).

(2) *Permits.* (i) For those activities which come under the jurisdiction of the Service, only permits for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, zoological exhibition or educational purposes, are available under §17.32. Procedures for issuance of permits are found in §17.32 and, for those activities which come under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service, subpart E of part 220. All the provisions of §17.32 apply to permits issued by the Service.

(c) *Threatened crocodilians.* This paragraph applies to the following species: Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) originating in Australia (also referred to as Australian saltwater crocodile) and Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) populations listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES or Convention).

(1) *Definitions of terms for purposes of this paragraph (c)*—(i) *Crocodilian skins* means whole or partial skins, flanks, and bellies (whether salted, crusted, tanned, partially tanned, or otherwise processed).

(ii) *Crocodilian parts* means meat and body parts with or without skin attached (including tails, throats, feet, and backstrips and other parts), except skulls.

(iii) *Country of re-export* means those intermediary countries that import and re-export crocodilian skins, parts, and/or products, except that those countries through which crocodilian skins, parts, and/or products are transhipped while remaining under

Customs control will not be considered to be a country of re-export.

(iv) *Tagging resolution* shall mean the CITES resolution entitled “Universal Tagging System for the Identification of Crocodilian Skins” and numbered Conf. 9.22 and any subsequent revisions.

(2) *Prohibitions.* All provisions of § 17.31 (a) and (b) and § 17.32 apply to Nile crocodile populations listed in Appendix I of CITES. The following prohibitions apply to saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) originating in Australia and to all Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) populations in Appendix II of CITES:

(i) *Import, export, and re-export.* Except as provided in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, it is unlawful to import, export, re-export, or present for export or re-export any Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) or Australian saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) or their skins, other parts or products, without valid permits required under 50 CFR parts 17 and 23.

(ii) *Commercial activity.* Except as provided in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, it is unlawful, in the course of a commercial activity, to sell or offer for sale, deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship in interstate or foreign commerce any Nile or saltwater crocodile, crocodilian skins, or other parts or products.

(iii) It is unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to commit, attempt to commit, solicit to commit, or cause to be committed any acts described in paragraphs (c)(2)(i)–(iii) of this section.

(3) *Exceptions.* The import, export, or re-export of, or interstate or foreign commerce in live crocodiles, crocodilian skins, meat, skulls, and other parts or products may be allowed without a threatened species permit issued pursuant to 50 CFR 17.32 when the provisions in 50 CFR parts 13, 14, and 23, and the applicable paragraphs set out below have been met.

(i) *Import, export, or re-export of crocodilian skins and parts.* The import, export, or re-export into/from the United States of crocodilian skins and parts of Nile crocodiles listed in Appendix II of the Convention, and of saltwater croco-

diles originating in Australia must meet the following conditions:

(A) All crocodilian parts must be in a transparent, sealed container, and each container imported into or presented for export or re-export from the United States after July 24, 1997,

(1) Must have a parts tag attached in such a way that opening of the container will preclude reuse of an undamaged tag,

(2) This parts tag must contain a description of the contents and total weight of the container, and

(3) This parts tag must reference the number of the CITES permit issued to allow the export or re-export of the container;

(B) Each crocodilian skin and each belly skin piece wider than 35 cm. imported into or presented for export or re-export from the United States after July 24, 1996, must bear: *either* an intact, uncut tag from the country of origin meeting all the requirements of the CITES tagging resolution, *or* an intact, uncut tag from the country of re-export where the original tags have been lost or removed from raw, tanned, and/or finished skins. The replacement tags must meet all the requirements of the CITES tagging resolution, except showing the country of re-export in place of the country of origin, provided those re-exporting countries have implemented an administrative system for the effective matching of imports and re-exports consistent with the tagging resolution. Clearance of any shipment with more than 25 percent replacement tags requires prior consultation with the U.S. Office of Management Authority by the re-exporting country to determine whether the requirements of the tagging resolution have been observed;

(C) The same information that is on the tags must be given on the export permit for all skins or re-export certificate for whole skins and belly skin pieces wider than 35 cm or on a separate sheet, which will be considered an integral part of the document, carry the same permit or certificate number, and be validated by the government authority designated by the CITES-document issuing authority;

(D) The Convention permit or certificate must contain the following information:

(1) The country of origin, its export permit number, and date of issuance;

(2) If re-export, the country of re-export, its certificate number, and date of issuance; and

(3) If applicable, the country of last re-export, its certificate number, and date of issuance;

(E) The country of origin and any intermediary country(s) must be effectively implementing the tagging resolution for this exception to apply. If the Service receives substantial evidence from the CITES Secretariat or other reliable sources that the tagging resolution is not being effectively implemented by a specific country, the Service will prohibit or restrict imports from such country(s) as appropriate for the conservation of the species.

(F) At the time of import, for each shipment covered by this exception, the country of origin and each country of re-export involved in the trade of a particular shipment is not subject to a Schedule III Notice of Information pertaining to all wildlife or any members of the Order Crocodylia that may prohibit or restrict imports. A listing of all countries that are subject to such a Schedule III Notice of Information will be available by writing: The Office of Management Authority, ARLSQ Room 430, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia, 22203.

(ii) *Import, export or re-export of crocodilian products.* Import, export, or re-export into or from the United States of crocodilian products of Nile crocodiles listed in Appendix II of the Convention, and saltwater crocodiles originating in Australia will be allowed without permits required by 50 CFR part 17 provided the following conditions are met:

(A) The Convention permit or certificate must contain the following information:

(1) The country of origin, its export permit number, and date of issuance;

(2) If re-export, the country of re-export, its certificate number, and date of issuance; and

(3) If applicable, the country of previous re-export, its certificate number, and date of issuance;

(B) The country of origin and any intermediary country(s) must be effectively implementing the tagging resolution for this exception to apply. If the Service receives substantial evidence from the CITES Secretariat or other reliable sources that the tagging resolution is not being effectively implemented by a specific country, the Service will prohibit or restrict imports from such countries as appropriate for the conservation of the species.

(C) At the time of import, for each shipment covered by this exception, the country of origin and each country of re-export involved in the trade of a particular shipment is not subject to a Schedule III Notice of Information pertaining to all wildlife or any member of the Order Crocodylia that may prohibit or restrict imports. A listing of all countries that are subject to such a Schedule III Notice of Information will be available by writing: The Office of Management Authority, ARLSQ Room 430, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia, 22203.

(iii) *Shipments of eggs, skulls, meat, scientific specimens and live specimens.* The import/re-export into/from the United States of eggs, skulls, meat, scientific specimens and live specimens of Nile crocodile populations listed in Appendix II of CITES or Australian saltwater crocodile will be allowed without permits otherwise required by 50 CFR part 17, provided the requirements of part 23 are met.

(iv) *Noncommercial accompanying baggage.* The conditions of paragraphs (c)(3)(i) and (ii) for skins tagged in accordance with the tagging resolution, skulls, meat, other parts, and products made of specimens of Nile crocodile populations on CITES Appendix II or of Australian saltwater crocodile do not apply to noncommercial accompanying personal baggage or household effects.

(v) *Personal sport-hunted trophies.* The import of personal sport-hunted trophies, including skulls, of Nile crocodile or saltwater crocodile from Appendix II populations will be allowed from country of origin and intermediary

countries into the United States without permits required by 50 CFR part 17, provided that unmounted skins bear an intact, uncut tag from the country of origin or such a tag accompanies mounted specimens in accordance with the tagging resolution.

(4) *Notice of Information.* Except in rare cases involving extenuating circumstances that do not adversely affect the conservation of the species, the Service will issue a Schedule III Notice of Information banning or restricting trade in specimens of crocodilians addressed in this paragraph (c) if any of the following criteria are met:

(i) The country is listed in a Notification to the Parties by the CITES Secretariat as lacking designated Management and Scientific Authorities that issue CITES documents or their equivalent.

(ii) The country is identified in any action adopted by the Parties to the Convention, the Convention's Standing Committee, or in a Notification issued by the CITES Secretariat, whereby Parties are asked to not accept shipments of specimens of CITES-listed Species from the country in question.

(iii) The Service determines, based on information from the CITES Secretariat or other reliable sources that the country is not effectively implementing the tagging resolution.

(d) Blue-tailed mole skink (*Eumeces egregius lividus*) and sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*). (1) No person shall take these species, except in accordance with applicable State fish and wildlife conservation laws and regulations for educational purposes, scientific purposes, the enhancement or survival of the species, zoological exhibition, and other conservation purposes consistent with the Act.

(2) Any violation of applicable State fish and wildlife conservation laws or regulations with respect to taking of these species is also a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

(3) No person shall possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, ship, import, or export, by any means whatever, any such species taken in violation of applicable State fish and wildlife conservation laws or regulations.

(4) It is unlawful for any person to attempt to commit, solicit another to commit, or cause to be committed, any offense defined in paragraph (c) (1) through (3) of this section.

(5) Taking of these species for purposes other than those described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, including taking incidental to carrying out otherwise lawful activities, is prohibited except when permitted under §§ 17.23 and 17.32.

(e) Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)—(1) *Definition.* For the purposes of this paragraph (e) "desert tortoise" shall mean any member of the species *Gopherus agassizii*, whether alive or dead, and any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof, found outside of Arizona (south and east of the Colorado River) and Mexico, regardless of natal origin or place of removal from the wild.

(2) *Applicable provisions.* The provisions of § 17.31–17.32 shall apply to any desert tortoise subject to this paragraph (e).

[42 FR 2076, Jan. 10, 1977, as amended at 43 FR 32809, July 28, 1978; 44 FR 59084, Oct. 12, 1979; 45 FR 17589, Mar. 19, 1980; 45 FR 78154, Nov. 25, 1980; 48 FR 46336, Oct. 12, 1983; 50 FR 25678, June 20, 1985; 50 FR 45409, Oct. 31, 1985; 52 FR 21063, June 4, 1987; 52 FR 42662, Nov. 6, 1987; 55 FR 12191, Apr. 2, 1990; 61 FR 32366, June 24, 1996]

#### § 17.43 Special rules—amphibians.

(a) San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*). (1) All provisions of § 17.31 apply to this species, except that it may be taken in accordance with applicable State law.

(2) Any violation of State law will also be a violation of the Act.

(b) [Reserved]

[40 FR 44415, Sept. 26, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 47363, July 14, 1980]

#### § 17.44 Special rules—fishes.

(a) Lahontan cutthroat trout, Paiute cutthroat trout, and Arizona trout (*Salmo clarki henshawi*, *Salmo clarki seleniris*, and *Salmo apache*). (1) All the provisions of § 17.31 apply to these species, except that they may be taken in accordance with applicable State law.

(2) Violation of State law will also be a violation of the Act.